

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 IO-10 /094 W
----- 119964

R 071500Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6884

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCWAS GABORONE 1057

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BC, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN-BOTSWANA BORDER CURFEW

1. THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS RELEASED THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT REGARDING THE RHODESIAN BORDER CURFEW:

QUOTE: THE RHODESIAN REGIME HAS IMPOSED A DUSK-TO-DAWN
CURFEW ON THE BOTSWANA-RHODESIAN BORDER WITH EFFECT FROM
TODAY, AUGUST 6. THE CURFEW, TO BE OBSERVED FROM 6:00 P.M.
TO 5:00 A.M. COVERS A ZONE OF 5 KILOMETERS WHICH EXTENDS FROM
THE SOUTHERN TIP OF WANKIE GAME RESERVES DOWN TO THE END OF
THE BORDER AT THE CONfluence OF THE LIMPOPO AND SHASHE
RIVERS* BUT IT INCLUDES ROAD AND RAIL LINKS ACROSS THE BORDER.
ALREADY FOUR AFRICANS WERE SHOT DEAD LAST WEEK-END IN THE
MOZAMBIQUE BORDER AREA. THE CURFEW IMPOSITION BY THE
RHODESIAN REGIME NOW AFFECTS ALMOST EVERY BORDER AREA
BECAUSE THE NORTHEASTERN AREA OF THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN UNDER
THIS CURFEW FOR SOME TIME NOW. A NUMBER OF CIVILIANS HAVE
BEEN KILLED FOR ALLEGEDLY BREAKING THESE CURFEWS. THE
RHODESIAN REGIME HAS BEEN PROMPTED TO ACT IN THIS MANNER
BY THE INCREASING DIFFICULTIES IT HAS HAD IN COMBATING THE
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ALREADY INCREASING LIBERATION STRUGGLE. THE OFFICE OF THE

PRESIDENT DEPLORES THE DECISION OF THE RHODESIAN REGIME AND WARNS ALL PERPOLE SERVING NEAR THE RHODESIAN BORDER TO KEEP AWAY FROM THE CURFEW ZONE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MUST ANYONE LIVING ON THE BOTSWANA SIDE OF THE BORDER CROSS INTO RHODESIA DURING THE HOURS OF THE CURFEW, THAT IS BETWEEN 6:00 IN THE EVENING AND 5:00 IN THE MORNING. END QUOTE.

2. GOB STATEMENT IS INCONSISTENT WITH REPORT CARRIED IN AUGUST 6 BULAWAYM (RHODESIA) CHRONICLE WHICH STATES THAT THE "CURFEW AREA WILL EXCLUDE THE ROAD AND RAIL LINKS BETWEEN RHODESIA AND BOTSWANA WHERE THEY CROSS THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER AT PLUMTREE". CHRONICLE ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT CURFEW WILL EXTEND FROM 6:00P.M. TO 6:00 A.M/

3. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING OF CURFEW WAS THAT PEOPLE TRANSITING BORDER BY TRAIN OR VEHICLE ARE EXEMPT FROM CURFEW, BUT THAT NO TRANSIT WILL BE ALLOWED ON FOOT DURING CURFEW HOURS.

BOLEN

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